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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BUILDING DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1952.

Boston, March 1, 1953.

HON. JOHN B. HYNES,
Mayor of the City of Boston.

SIR:

In accordance with the provisions of section 115, chapter 479 of the Acts of 1938, as amended, I submit herewith a brief report of the activities of the Building Department during the year 1952.

HARRY J. KEEFE,
Building Commissioner.

Statement of Building Operations in the City of Boston for the Year Ending December 31, 1952.

	1952.		1951.		1950.		1949.		1948.	
	Num- ber.	Cost.	Num- ber.	Cost.	Num- ber.	Cost.	Num- ber.	Cost.	Num- ber.	Cost.
Type I.....	71	\$27,428,975	139	\$32,655,390	60	\$19,825,125	82	\$20,816,810	44	\$18,113,471
Type II.....	52	9,466,300	6	2,014,500	8	728,400	10	632,200	9	1,624,111
Type III.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	200,000	3	657,500
Type IV.....	116	3,488,045	140	3,494,705	156	3,713,125	132	2,602,965	133	7,967,865
Type V.....	51	140,500	48	181,700	37	237,545	68	268,470	88	288,725
Type VI.....	461	3,633,915	508	9,688,061	366	7,877,785	391	3,810,249	360	3,141,920
Total new construction.....	751	\$44,157,735	841	\$48,034,356	660	\$32,381,980	684	\$28,330,694	637	\$31,796,592
Alterations, repairs, etc.....	5,772	9,755,517	5,980	12,050,410	5,908	12,524,942	6,241	10,534,807	6,992	14,701,174
Total structural construction.....	6,523	\$53,913,252	6,830	\$60,084,766	6,568	\$44,906,922	6,295	\$38,865,501	7,599	\$46,497,766
Plumbing.....	2,889	\$3,277,622	2,709	\$4,142,115	3,032	\$3,932,903	3,030	\$3,228,693	3,243	\$3,373,090
Gas fitting.....	5,690	810,167	4,920	688,485	5,863	728,400	5,934	1,271,905	6,281	731,500
Heaters, ovens, engines, etc.....	238	246,629	385	642,848	327	497,001	335	884,199	410	475,427
Elevators, new freight.....	44	290,155	28	223,663	69	219,412	50	231,758	74	363,745
Elevators, new passengers.....	33	541,765	45	876,135	66	1,677,656	54	863,395	51	762,511
Elevators, alterations, freight.....	125	42,411	163	80,887	169	59,677	179	66,497	171	92,101
Elevators, alterations, passenger.....	254	222,507	305	368,440	310	130,241	298	118,965	312	160,368
Signs, projections, etc.....	636	218,404	497	195,420	489	243,639	385	193,038	385	194,632
Fire escapes, etc.....	520	109,211	569	132,538	391	105,515	669	148,117	672	179,327
Take-downs, wood.....	96	55,718	220	75,526	199	94,154	143	50,948	144	43,290
Take-downs, brick, etc.....	341	646,897	176	194,620	120	122,629	58	63,007	69	77,828
Sprinklers.....	172	520,914	105	450,033	115	344,879	115	376,832	139	493,018
Excavations.....	39	57,500	26	25,840	43	148,310	23	18,000	25	41,432
Use of premises.....	33	—	61	—	48	—	47	—	76	—
Totals.....	11,110	\$7,039,900	10,209	\$8,098,620	11,241	\$8,973,954	11,320	\$7,515,354	12,032	\$6,988,269
Grand total all work.....	17,633	\$60,953,152	17,039	\$68,183,386	17,809	\$53,880,876	18,245	\$46,380,855	19,651	\$53,486,035
Department revenue.....	.....	\$86,957 25	.....	\$72,236 00	.....	\$89,345 00	.....	\$73,528 50	.....	\$83,854 25

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS AND FEES RECEIVED BY
THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT—JANUARY 1 TO
DECEMBER 31, 1952.

	Number	Fees Paid
New construction	766	\$32,214 00
Alterations	7,460	22,971 00
Elevator, annual tests—minor alterations	1,898	6,357 00
Amendments	261	824 00
Sprinklers	175	1,026 00
Night elevator tests	29	530 00
Special foundation	35	170 00
Board of Appeal	208	2,705 00
Boilers, etc.	241	240 00
Plumbing, old	2,280	3,156 50
Plumbing, new	433	3,331 00
Plumbing, no fee	170	—
Gas fitting, old	5,396	4,997 75
Gas fitting, new	72	132 00
Gas fitting, no fee	240	—
Building law books	513	1,282 50
Petit law books	—	205 00
Elevator licenses, new	1,661	1,661 00
Elevator licenses, renewal	4,703	2,351 50
Elevator licenses, out of town	2	1 00
Elevator licenses, new, no fee	31	—
Elevator licenses, renewal, no fee	159	—
Elevator licenses, duplicates	68	34 00
Master gas fitter, new	9	18 00
Master gas fitter, renewal	658	1,316 00
Journeyman gas fitter, new	24	12 00
Journeyman gas fitter, renewal	840	420 00
Permission to inspect plans in vault	180	539 00
Certified copies of documents	131	464 00
	<u>28,643</u>	<u>\$86,958 25</u>

SUMMARY OF EXAMINATIONS AND REPORTS, 1952

New buildings	5,875
Alterations	21,396
Existing buildings	133
Boilers, engines, etc.	24
Plumbing, new	1,559
Plumbing, alterations	10,031
Plumbing tests	721
Gas fitting, new	1,018
Gas fitting, alterations	11,285
Gas fitting, tests	4,922
Egress	39,439

Elevators	8,135
Sprinklers	4,657
Standpipes	250
Tests of both	2,644
Zoning	2,569
Plans	1,793
Special form applications	6,006
Fires	1,020
Gas accidents:	
Fatal	26
Nonfatal	57
Elevator accidents:	
Fatal	4
Nonfatal	40
Building accidents — special reports	5
Complaints made	715
Finals	2,138
Communications acted on	2,083
Special detail — Civil Defense Inspections	2,426
Complaints referred to Law Department for action	255

FINANCIAL REPORT, 1952 — EXPENDITURES

1. PERSONAL SERVICE:

100. Permanent employees	\$404,032 14
110. Temporary employees	—
120. Overtime	1,980 33

2. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:

210. Communications	80
230. Professional and technical services	180 40
270. Repairs and servicing of equipment	208 73
282. Travel expenses — inside the state	7,144 39
297. Printing and binding	424 00
299. Other contractual services	7,386 05

3. SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS:

300. Automotive supplies and materials	228 81
360. Office supplies and materials	5,671 95
393. General operating supplies and materials	56 44
395. Tools and instruments	40 00

4. CURRENT CHARGES AND OBLIGATIONS:

401. Dues and subscriptions	48 50
430. Bond and insurance premiums	—
440. Licenses	3 00

5. EQUIPMENT:

593. Library — books	\$270 21
Grand total	<u>\$427,675 75</u>
Appropriation	<u>\$415,637 60</u>
Department income	<u>\$86,958 25</u>
Unsafe buildings razed by city 8	
Unsafe buildings shored by city or otherwise	
secured against trespass 24	
Total expenditures for shoring, securing, and	
razing	<u>\$45,154 45</u>

CLASSIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Quota	Title	Grade	Compensation
1	Building Commissioner	—	\$916 67
1	Deputy Building Commissioner	29	121 98
1	Technical Assistant	28	104 72
1	Head Administrative Clerk	26	438 67
1	Zoning Administrator	26	100 88
4	Chief Building Inspector	24	\$94 00—100 88
1	Chief Egress Inspector	24	100 88
1	Chief Elevator Inspector	24	100 88
1	Chief Gas Fitting Inspector	24	95 13
1	Chief Plumbing Inspector	24	91 30
1	Chief Sprinkler Inspector	24	94 00
4	Building Plan Examiner	24	85 54—100 88
1	Building Plan Examiner	24	438 67
2	Senior Egress Inspector	20	76 50—80 00
1	Legal Assistant	20	85 54
15	Building Inspector	19	70 50—87 00
2	Building Inspector, Temporary	18	68 00
9	Plumbing Inspector	18	76 50—83 50
7	Gas Fitting Inspector	18	68 00—83 50
4	Sprinkler Inspector	18	68 00—83 50
5	Elevator Inspector	18	73 00—83 50
17	Egress Inspector	17	70 50—80 00
1	Head Clerk	20	83 62
1	Senior Cashier	19	83 62
3	Principal Clerk	17	74 03—77 87
1	Senior Clerk-Stenographer	13	58 69
3	Senior Clerk-Typist	13	63 00—68 00
1	Motor Equipment Operator	12	62 53
9	Clerk-Typist	8	48 00—50 50
1	Constable	—	54 86

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1952

On January 1, 1952, there were (estimated) in the City of Boston:

Brick and other fire-resistive buildings	46,206	
Erected during the year	290	
	<hr/>	46,496
Taken down during year	341	
Totally destroyed by fire	0	
	<hr/>	341
Existing January 1, 1953		46,155
Wood buildings	94,211	
Erected during year	461	
	<hr/>	94,672
Taken down during year	96	
Totally destroyed by fire	0	
	<hr/>	96
Existing January 1, 1953		94,576
		<hr/>
Total number (estimated) of buildings in Boston on January 1, 1953		140,731

BOARD OF APPEAL

The Board of Appeal, established in accordance with section 117 of chapter 479, Acts of 1938, as amended, in its functioning, may vary the provisions of the Act referred to in specific cases which appear to them not to have been contemplated by this Act although covered by it, or in cases where manifest injustice is done, provided that the decision of the Board in such a case shall have the assent of four members under Building Law and shall be unanimous under Zoning Law and shall not conflict with the spirit of any provision of the Act.

The following is a statistical summary of the work of this department for the year 1952.

In *re* Building Law — chapter 479, Acts of 1938, as amended:

Appeals received	87
Appeals withdrawn	1
Appeals pending	4
Appeals sustained	21
Appeals sustained with proviso	48
Appeals dismissed	13

In *re* Zoning Law — chapter 488, Acts of 1924, as amended:

Appeals received	152
Appeals withdrawn	9
Appeals pending	18
Appeals sustained	60
Appeals sustained with proviso	48
Appeals dismissed	17

BOARD OF EXAMINERS

The Board of Examiners was created by city ordinance in 1913 and re-established under legislative act in 1938. It acts upon applications of persons desiring to be licensed in Boston as construction superintendents, approving or rejecting said applications under certain rules and regulations adopted as procedure by the Board. The members are appointed by the Mayor and consist of an architect or engineer, a contractor or mechanic, and a lawyer.

The following list is that of applications acted upon in 1952:

	Approved	Rejected
New licenses and reissues	469	93
Renewals	2,017	0
	<hr/> 2,486	<hr/> 93

Fees collected amounted to \$6,379.





